capacity has been necessary. Though research using a blue-violet semiconductor laser have been conducted, these technologies can improve only several times the recording density of the present level due to the problem of the diffraction limit of light. In contrast, an information recording/reproduction method utilizing near field light would be a promising method as a technology that handles optical information of a minute region exceeding the diffraction limit of the light.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The substantially rod-like optical guide having flexibility generally has a thickness of not greater than about 100 μm, and it is difficult to attain a high NA for increasing the energy density of the luminous flux incident into the minute aperture. It would be possible to attain a high NA of the luminous flux incident into the minute aperture by increasing the distance between the core having the reflection surface formed thereon and the ball lens, but when such an arrangement is employed, the optical waveguide loses its flexibility. In addition, since the optical pickup becomes thicker and the position of the center of gravity becomes higher, high-speed tracking becomes difficult to execute.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Further, according to a fifth aspect of the invention, a fifth information recording/reproduction apparatus according to the present invention has its feature in that the optical waveguide further includes a flexure.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The near field head 104 includes a micro-lens 205 formed on a transparent glass substrate, for example, so as to accomplish a lens function for the head, and an air bearing surface 204 formed on the side of the recording medium so that the head 104 can always float while keeping a predetermined relative arrangement. A shading film (not shown) covers the surfaces of the head 104 other than the surface on which the micro-lens 205 is formed. A minute aperture 206 is formed in the shading film on the bottom surface of the near field optical head 104. The micro-lens 205 condenses the luminous flux from the optical waveguide 103 to the minute aperture 206. The waveguide 103 comprising the core 201 and the clad 202 is fixed to the upper part of this near field optical head 104.--